TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1988 -- Freight traffic on U.S. railroads during the week ended December 24 totaled an estimated 18.7 billion ton-miles, up 37.7 percent from the 13.6 billion carried in the comparable period of 1987, which included the Christmas holiday, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 982.5 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 24 totaled 419,655, up 40.0 percent from the holiday week last year, but down 3.9 percent from the preceding week of this year. Compared with a year ago, carloadings originated were up 35.9 percent in the West and 44.2 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 19 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of coal were up by 41,803 cars (49.1 percent), motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up 9,093 cars (84.1 percent), and chemicals and allied products increased by 7,040 cars (32.8 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended December 17 totaled 117,991 trailers and/or containers, down 1.7 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of 1988 was 5,519,884 trailers and/or containers, up 3.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/24/88:

	Loadings in Week ended December 24, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,460	I	3,847	15.6	D	774	2.6
Other farm products	3,898	D	99	2.5	D	391	14.7
Metallic ores	20,349	I	6,060	42.4	I	977	5.0
Coal	126,865	I	41,803	49.1	D	534	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,827	I	4,115	61.3	D	2,376	18.0
Nonmetallic minerals	8,411	I	2,314	38.0	D	846	9.1
Grain mill products	10,619	I	1,839	20.9	D	229	2.1
Food and kindred products	10,465	I	2,681	34.4	D	462	4.2
Primary forest products	9,897	I	3,195	47.7	D	44	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,304	I	1,813	33.0	I	332	4.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,998	I	727	6.5	I	797	7.1
Chemicals and allied products	28,482	I	7,040	32.8	I	475	1.7
Petroleum products	5,108	I	1,451	39.7	D	294	5.4
Stone, clay and glass products	9,110	I	2,574	39.4	D	479	5.0
Coke	5,423	I	485	9.8	D	575	9.6
Metals and products	9,478	I	2,006	26.8	D	5	0.05
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,905	I	9,093	84.1	D	4,676	19.0
Waste and scrap materials	8,291	I	2,162	35.3	D	925	10.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,043	I	241	13.4	I	1	0.05
All other carloads	82,722	I	26,655	47.5	D	6,828	7.6
Total Cars Loaded	419,655	I	120,002	40.0	D	16,856	3.9
Corresponding week of 1987	299,653						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks)	21,813,947	20,831,694	I 4.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
50 weeks ended December 17	963.8	911.0	I 5.8
Week ended December 24	18.7	13.6	I 37.7
51 Weeks cumulative	982.5	924.6	I 6.3

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